

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Each year on July 30th, people from all corners of the world commemorate the UN's World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. According to [Polaris](#), a leader in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery, there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally. This alarming increase in the trade of women, children, and men is one of the pressing political, social, and economic problems associated with globalization and modern technology. Practically every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit, or destination for victims. Together, let us be more attentive to the cries and the needs of the victims and survivors of human trafficking. Together, may we remain vigilant in our efforts to find and bring to justice those who perpetrate this crime.

Reader 1: Jesus, Companion of the Trafficked, every hour of the day, traffickers lurk and prey on the innocent and most vulnerable of our society: the abused and the runaway girls and boys, the homeless and the transgender youth, the migrants and the refugees.

All: May we be more vigilant protectors of all trafficked victims and survivors and work to bring traffickers and their clients to justice.

Reader 2: Every hour of the day, traffickers sweet-talk their victims with persuasive promises of legitimate and legal work, educational opportunities, and a better life.

All: May we be more vigilant protectors of all trafficked victims and survivors and work to bring traffickers and their clients to justice.

Reader 3: Every hour of the day, traffickers mold their victims into child prostitutes, child soldiers, sex workers, domestic slaves, and forced laborers, and drum into them, "We own you. No one cares what happens to you."

All: May we be more vigilant protectors of all trafficked victims and survivors and work to bring traffickers and their clients to justice.

Reader 4: Every hour of the day, traffickers burden their victims with layers of fear; deprive them of food and sleep; force them under the lash of beatings, rape, torture, and imprisonment; and strip them of their self-dignity and trust in humanity.

All: May we be more vigilant protectors of all trafficked victims and survivors and work to bring



Reader 5: Every hour of the day, individual entrepreneurs and large corporations grow rich from bringing into the average home websites where, in minutes, pimps, stalkers, and those suffering with sex addiction have access to million of images and videos of sexual exploitation of women, teens, and children.

All: May we be more vigilant protectors of all trafficked victims and survivors and work to bring traffickers and their clients to justice.

Reader 6: Every hour of the day, consumers of human trafficking live among us. They come from all nations, they are rich and poor, they are married with children, they are world and faith leaders, they are freedom fighters and insurgents, and they are humanitarian workers and educators. Like chameleons, they hide their identities and acts in plain sight, all the while exposing their victims to physical and mental abuse.

All: May we be more vigilant protectors of all trafficked victims and survivors and work to bring traffickers and their clients to justice.

Reader 7: Every hour of the day, women, children, and men cry out in anguished prayer: “How long will our cries for help fall on deaf ears? How long will we be forgotten?”

All: May we be more vigilant protectors of all trafficked victims and survivors and work to bring traffickers and their clients to justice.

Reader 8: Every hour of the day, the demand for child trafficking grows and calls us to disrupt the market and to confront and hold accountable not only the traffickers but also the consumers who are willing to pay for the services of children by calling for legislation that criminalizes the consumption of child pornography or the sexual abuse of a child.

All: May we be more vigilant protectors of all trafficked victims and survivors and work to bring traffickers and their clients to justice.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Jesus, Companion of the Trafficked,
 Show us how to be one with our trafficked sisters and brothers.
 Breathe into us their sorrows and losses.
 Breathe into us their fears and despair.
 Breathe into us their exhaustion and hunger.
 Breathe into us their shame and humiliation.
 Breathe into us their shattered trust in humanity.
 Breathe into us their fragile hope to remain alive.

Jesus, Companion of the Trafficked,
 As we carry their suffering
 May we be more vigilant protectors
 Of all trafficked victims and survivors.
 May people from every corner of the world
 Work to hold traffickers and consumers accountable
 For this crime of modern day slavery. Amen.

